



## **Study to investigate contamination at Eagle-Zinc co. site**

A study is set to begin this summer to determine the extent of contamination at the Eagle-Zinc Co. site, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Wednesday.

The study is possible because of a consent order signed by the EPA and T.L. Diamond Co. Inc., Sherwin-Williams Co. and Eagle-Picher Industries, the EPA said in a news release. Under the order, T.L. Diamond and Sherwin-Williams will provide an investigation report that includes cleanup options for the 133-acre site just east of Hillsboro at Smith Road and Industrial Park Drive.

There are about 15 piles of potentially hazardous residue from zinc oxide processing that must be evaluated for cleanup, according to the EPA. Soil, groundwater and surface water will be tested. Hillsboro officials said Wednesday there have been no problems with contaminants in the municipal water supply.

T.L. Diamond has done zinc oxide smelting at the site since 1984. Sherwin-Williams owned the property from about 1980 to 1984, and before that, Eagle-Picher Industries, from about 1919 to 1980. Eagle-Picher also produced sulfuric acid at the site. Its contribution to the study will be strictly financial, with plans calling for the use of funds set aside during the company's bankruptcy proceedings in 1996, the EPA said.

A work plan for the study is expected to be completed in April, with field work in the summer and fall.

The study is expected to be completed in 2003, after which the EPA will propose a formal cleanup plan and solicit public comment.

From staff and wire reports

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